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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 24 and 34 have been amended herein with various novel aspects recited in pending claims. Claims 1-23, 25-33, 35 and 40 have been amended for purposes of clarity.

1. (Currently amended) A system that creates and maintains ~~for creating and maintaining~~ an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database holding information with respect to items, the information is being at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

an item list database that stores ~~operable to store~~ references to the items stored in the at least one database; and

an interface component that receives ~~operable to receive~~ a request for items in an item list, accesses the item list database for the references to the items, extracts data corresponding to the at least one database based on ~~employing~~ the references and returns the requested item list.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein~~ the interface component ~~is operable to~~ joins items from the at least one database and ~~degrades~~ the joined items as records are removed from any of the at least one database.

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a custom input component that ~~operable to~~ allows a user to add a custom element to the item list, the custom element not residing in any of the at least one database.

4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 3, further comprising a user interface component that ~~coupleable to the custom input component, the user interface component adapted for~~ receives ~~receiving~~ data related ~~relating to the~~ a custom element from a user, the data comprises ~~comprising~~ at least one of structured and unstructured data.

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5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a remote input component ~~that operable to~~ allows a user to add an item to the item list, the item is having a description that resides ~~residing~~ on a remote merchant's site, and the remote merchant site employs ~~employing~~ a link to the remote input component that invokes ~~for invoking~~ the remote input component.
6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 5, the remote input component ~~being operable to~~ adds the description of the item to the item list, the description includes ~~having~~ one of structured and unstructured data.
7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 5, the description is linked ~~having a link~~ to information associated with ~~regarding with respect to~~ an item in the at least one database and the remote input component ~~being operable to~~ adds the linked information ~~with respect to the item~~ to the item list.
8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, ~~the system being adapted to further comprising a component that links an~~ the infrastructure of the item list system to a remote site wherein the item list system appears to reside on the remote site.
9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, the interface component comprises ~~comprising~~ a plurality of ASP pages.
10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one HTML page that operable to allows a user to select items from an electronic web-site to add to the item list and at least one element that provides ~~providing~~ a link from a selected item to the interface component, the interface component ~~being further operable to~~ adds the selected item to the item list.

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11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a gift finder component ~~that is having a link~~ associated with the item list, the gift finder component ~~being operable to~~ accesses a user attribute database to retrieve attributes related to an owner of at least one item list, the gift finder component ~~employs~~ employing the retrieved attributes to extract data from the at least one database and returns at least one item based on the retrieved attributes.

12. (Currently amended) A system ~~that creates and maintains for creating and maintaining~~ an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database ~~that stores holding~~ information with respect to items; and

an interface component ~~that operable to~~ receives a request for items in an item list, accesses the items from the at least one database and returns the requested item list, the interface component ~~being operable to~~ joins items from the at least one database and degrades the joined items as records are removed from any of the at least one database.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, the items ~~include including~~ data from at least two of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type, ~~wherein~~ the interface component degrades the joined items by providing the best information from data available in the at least two of a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type.

14. (Currently amended) A system ~~that creates and maintains for creating and maintaining~~ an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database ~~with holding item~~ information with respect to items; and

an interface component ~~that operable to~~ receives a request for items in an item list, accesses the items from the at least one database and returns the requested item list, the item information ~~comprises comprising both~~ structured and unstructured data.

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, further comprising a custom input component ~~that operable to~~ allows a user to add a custom element to the item list, the custom element component ~~comprises comprising both~~ structured and unstructured data.

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16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 15, further comprising a user interface component ~~that coupleable to the custom input component, the user interface component adapted for receives~~ receiving data ~~related relating~~ to a custom element from a user, the data comprises ~~comprising~~ at least one of structured and unstructured data.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 14, further comprising a remote input component ~~that operable to allows~~ a user to add an item to the item list having a description residing on a remote merchant's site, the remote merchant site employs ~~employing~~ a link to the remote input component to invoke ~~for invoking~~ the remote input component.

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18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, the remote input component ~~being operable to adds~~ the description of the item to the item list, the description includes ~~having~~ one of structured and unstructured data.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, the description ~~is having a linked~~ to information associated with respect to an item in the at least one database and the remote input component ~~being operable to adds~~ the information with respect to the item to the item list.

20. (Currently amended) A system that creates and maintains ~~for creating and maintaining~~ an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database that holds ~~holding~~ information with respect to items; and

an interface component ~~that operable to receives~~ a request for items in an item list, accesses the items from the at least one database and returns the requested item list, ~~wherein the system is operable to links~~ the infrastructure of the item list system to a remote site and ~~wherein~~ the item list system appears to reside on the remote site.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20, the interface component ~~being operable to~~ accesses and returns only items related to the remote site.

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22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, the interface component ~~being operable to~~ accesses and returns only items related to the remote site based on an ID associated with the items.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, the interface component ~~being operable to~~ accesses and returns only items related to the remote site by accessing and returning items on a separate list associated with items related ~~relating~~ to the remote site.

24. (Currently amended) A system that creates and maintains ~~for creating and maintaining~~ an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database with saved ~~holding~~ information with respect to items,

an interface component ~~that operable to~~ receives a request for items in an item list, accesses the items from the at least one database and returns the requested item list; and

a customization component that adds at least one custom item to the item list, the at least one custom item does not reside in any of the at least one database; and

a gift finder component ~~that operable to~~ accesses a user attribute database and ~~to~~ retrieves attributes related to an owner of the item list, the gift finder component employs ~~employing~~ the retrieved attributes to extract data from the at least one database and returns at least one item of interest based on the retrieved attributes.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24, the item list comprises ~~having~~ a link associated with the gift finder component that invokes ~~for invoking~~ the gift finder component from the item list.

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26. (Currently amended) A method that provides ~~providing~~ an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing at least one database that stores ~~holding~~ information with respect to items, the information ~~is being~~ at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

providing an item list database that ~~operable to~~ stores references to the items stored in the at least one database;

receiving a request from a requestor for items in an item list;

accessing the item list database for the references to the items;

extracting data that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the at least one database employing the references; and

returning the requested item list to the requestor.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising ~~the step of~~ joining the extracted data and degrading the joined items as records are removed from any of the at least one database.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising ~~a step of~~ joining structured and unstructured data.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising ~~a step of~~ inputting custom items into the item list database.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising ~~a step of~~ providing a link and a product description at a remote merchant site that allows ~~for allowing~~ a user to add items from a remote site to the item list database.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising ~~a step of~~ linking the infrastructure of the item list to a remote site, ~~wherein~~ the item list appears to reside on the remote site.

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32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising ~~a step of~~ providing links from ~~a~~ selectable items on at least one HTML page, the links ~~being operable to~~ allow a user to select items from an electronic web-site to add to the item list.

33. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions that perform ~~for performing~~ the steps of claim 26.

34. (Currently amended) A method that provides ~~for providing~~ an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising the steps of:

providing at least one database that holds ~~holding~~ information with respect to items, the information is being at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

providing a user attribute database that ~~operable to~~ stores attributes with respect to an owner of the item list;

receiving a request from a requestor for possible gift items;

accessing the user attribute database for the attributes of the owner of the item list;

extracting data that corresponds ~~corresponding~~ to the at least one database based on ~~employing~~ the attributes; ~~and~~

degrading the extracted data as records are removed from any of the at least one database;  
and

returning the requested possible gift items to the requestor.

35. (Currently amended) A system that creates and maintains ~~for creating and maintaining~~ an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

means for storing ~~at least one database holding~~ information with respect to items, the information is being at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

means for storing ~~an item list database operable to store~~ references to the items stored in the at least one database; ~~and~~

means for extracting data corresponding to the at least one database employing the stored references.

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36. (Original) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for joining the extracted data and means for degrading the extracted data as records are removed from any of the at least one database.

37. (Original) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for providing custom input elements to the item list.

38. (Original) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for allowing a user to add an item residing on a remote merchant's site to the item list.

39. (Original) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for linking the infrastructure of the item list system to a remote site wherein the item list system appears to reside on the remote site.

40. (Currently amended) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for providing gift suggestions to a receiver of an item list, the receiver employs ~~employing~~ attributes that reside ~~residing~~ in a user attribute database and means for extracting data from the at least one database based on the attributes.